



SUMMER READING LIST*

Dream Big! READ ~ Grades 3 & 4

compiled for the Connecticut Department of Education by Linda Williams,
Connecticut State Library

PICTURE BOOKS

The Moon Over Star by Diana Hutts Aston

On her family's farm in the town of Star, eight-year-old Mae eagerly follows the progress of the 1969 Apollo 11 flight and moon landing and dreams that she might one day be an astronaut, too.

[ALA](#)

Grace for President by Kelly S. DiPuccio

When Grace discovers that there has never been a female U.S. president, she decides to run for school president.

[ALA](#), [IRA](#)

Under the Quilt of Night

by Deborah Hopkinson

A young girl flees from the farm where she has been worked as a slave and uses the Underground Railroad to escape to freedom in the north.

[IRA](#)

I Dream of Trains by Angela Johnson

The son of a sharecropper dreams of leaving Mississippi on a train with the legendary engineer Casey Jones.

[NCSS](#)

Night Boat to Freedom by Margot Theis

Raven

At the request of his fellow slave Granny Judith, Christmas John risks his life to take runaways across a river from Kentucky to Ohio. Based on slave narratives recorded in the 1930s.

[IRA](#)

CHAPTER BOOKS

The Boy Who Climbed Into the Moon

by David Almond

Helped by a very long ladder, some unusual acquaintances, two rather worried parents, and a great deal of community spirit, a young English boy makes an astonishing discovery when he embarks on a mission to prove that the moon is nothing but a big hole in the sky.

[USBBY](#)

Little Rat Makes Music by Monika Bang-Campbell

Little Rat loves the violin but hates to practice, until her teacher suggests she perform a duet with one of the ad-

vanced students at the holiday concert.

[ALA](#)

Bandit's Moon by Sid Fleischman

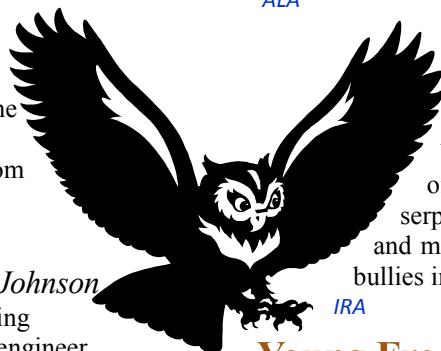
Twelve-year-old Annyrose, left behind when her brother joins the Gold Rush, escapes the unscrupulous woman she is staying with and sets out on a grand adventure with the notorious bandit Joaquin Murieta and his band of outlaws.

[ALA](#)

The Night Fairy by Laura Amy Schlitz

When Flory the night fairy's wings are accidentally broken and she cannot fly, she has to learn to do everything differently.

[ALA](#)



Dragonbreath by Ursula

Vernon

Danny Dragonbreath and his friend Wendell get an up-close under water tour of the Sargasso Sea from Danny's sea-serpent cousin, encountering giant squid and mako sharks--and learn about standing up to bullies in the process.

[IRA](#)

Young Fredle by Cynthia Voigt

Fredle, a young mouse cast out of his home, faces dangers and predators outside, makes some important discoveries and allies, and learns the meaning of freedom as he struggles to return home.

[ALA](#)

GRAPHIC NOVEL

Joey Fly, Private Eye in Creepy

Crawly Crime by Aaron Reynolds

A graphic novel featuring Joey Fly, crime fighter, as he sets out to solve the mystery of a stolen diamond pencil box owned by a beautiful butterfly customer.

[Edgar Allan Poe Honor](#)

POETRY

Dark Emperor & Other Poems of the Night by Joyce Kilmer

A collection of poems that celebrate the wonder, mystery, and danger of the night and describes the many things that hide in the dark.

[ALA](#), [NCTE](#), [NSTA](#)

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NONFICTION

Dream Something Big by Dianna Hutts

Aston

In Watts, California, over a period of many years, a man known to all as Uncle Sam spends his free time collecting broken bits of pottery, glass, and other scraps and turning them into a work of art.

[ALA](#)

A Seed is Sleepy by Dianna Hutts

Aston

An informative, yet beautiful, introduction to seeds.

[IRA](#)

Vote! by Eileen Christelow

Using a campaign for mayor as an example, shows the steps involved in an election, from the candidate's speeches and rallies, to the voting booth where every vote counts, to the announcement of the winner.

[ALA](#), [IRA](#), [NCSS](#)

A Black Hole is Not a Hole by Carolyn

DeCristofano

An examination of black holes that discusses what they are, what causes them, how they are discovered, and more.

[Three Starred Reviews](#)

Jazz on a Saturday Night by Leo & Diane

Dillon

Learn about this popular music form and hear each instrument play on a specially produced CD.

[ALA](#), [NCTE](#), [NCSS](#)

Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11 by

Brian Floca

Here is the story of the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon — a story of leaving and returning during the summer of 1969, and a story of home, seen whole, from far away by steady astronauts in their great machines.

[ALA](#), [IRA](#)

Older Than the Stars by Karen C. Fox

Introduces the big bang theory, describing how the universe began and how elementary particles combined to form our

solar system and eventually Earth's simplest organisms, which in turn evolved to become complex forms of life and human beings.

[IRA](#), [NCTE](#)

The Wolves Are Back by Jean Craighead

George

For over a century, wolves were persecuted in the United States and nearly became extinct. Gradually reintroduced, they are thriving again in the West, much to the benefit of the ecosystem.

[NSTA](#)

If You Decide to Go to the

Moon by Faith McNulty

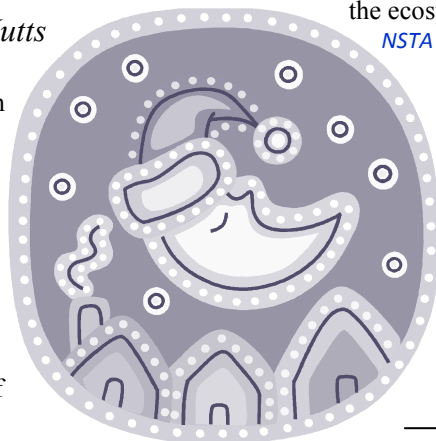
Describes what a trip to the moon is like for a would-be astronaut.

[IRA](#)

Saltypie by Tim Tingle

Stories of the author's Choctaw Indian family, centering particularly on his blind grandmother.

[ALA](#), [IRA](#)



BIOGRAPHY

Midnight Forests by Gary Hines

Gifford Pinchot is regarded as the father of the conservation movement. Pinchot and President Teddy Roosevelt set aside large areas and designated them public lands; these are today's National Forests.

[IRA](#)

Shooting for the Moon by Stephen Krensky

A picture-book biography of Annie Oakley that is based on her own writings and illustrations.

[NCSS](#)

Dreamer From the Village by Michelle

Markel

Chronicles the life of Marc Chagall, a celebrated twentieth-century artist who was born in Russia.

[NCSS](#)

Henry Aaron's Dream by Matt Tavares

A picture book biography of African-American baseball player Hank Aaron.

[NCSS](#)

*Most books listed were selected as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: the American Library Association (ALA), the International Reading Association (IRA), the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) or the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBYP).